

Transcript: “China Public Policy: Promoting a Low-Carbon Economy”

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China Public Policy: Promoting a Low-Carbon Economy
Alcoa Foundation
China Center for International Economic Exchanges
Institute of International Education

Vanessa Kang, Alcoa Alcoa Foundation is supporting the Promoting a Low-Carbon Economy program, which is being researched by CCIEE in China.

Zhou Zhiyong, CCIEE CCIEE stands for China Center for International Economic Exchanges. It’s a newly established think-tank in China. We do macroeconomic research. The Chinese economy has developed vigorously in the past 20-30 years. However, this also incurred a lot of environmental problems, such as carbon emissions. The main source of carbon emissions comes from industry.

Zhang Huanbo, CCIEE China is called “The Factory of the World.” Many factories come from other countries to China, and they use materials, and also fuels. This production is the major source of carbon.

Zhou Zhiyong First, we did some literature review. But more importantly, we have conducted some field investigations. We went to certain cities where carbon emission is a severe problem, and also went to some other areas or cities, which are a good example of being environmentally-friendly. We summarized the advantage or disadvantage of those projects in those areas, then we try to make future projects better.

Zhang Huanbo We found that the central government has a strong motive to push green development, but the local government doesn’t have as strong [motivation] as the central government to push the green development. They want to raise the growth of GDP. This is the first of our findings. And the second is that in China, we make progress mainly based on the government’s push, and many [economic] instruments are from the government. But the market-based instruments are very, very few. It means we must change the whole development model in the economy. Not just the rules, or just the clean energy. It’s the development mode [that] I must change.

Zhou Zhiyong We hope that our research findings will be adopted by the central government and that they will have a better understanding, or bigger picture to push the local government to implement their policy not just for the sake of implementing it, but to implement the policy properly and to really make positive impact to peoples’ well-being.

Vanessa Kang China has achieved great economic success nowadays. But it has also resulted in many environmental challenges and problems in society. So it is very important

for the whole society, government, enterprises and the public to work together to find a way to promote a low-carbon economy.

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